

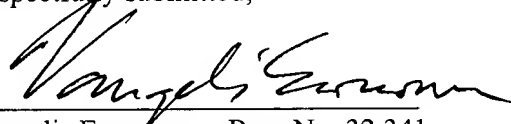
Tseng et al. is drawn to a tunable optical fiber filter or reflector, in which a fiber is bent slightly, purely for the purpose of allowing the polishing of the fiber to remove a cladding layer to expose the core region of the fiber. This allows a coating to be applied adjacent to an ordinary Bragg grating which is formed in the core region. The coating has a refractive index, which can be varied by heating, and the variation of the refractive index of the coating adjacent to the grating results in variation of the Bragg condition of the grating to thereby provide the required tunability. The bend in the fiber is specified to have a curvature radius ranging between 400 and 2000 centimeters (see column 2, lines 44-45) and in this regard it should be noted that the dimensions in the figures have clearly been exaggerated in the drawing figures of Tseng et al.

With respect to the features claimed in Claim 1, the grating structure of Tseng et al. is not arranged to guide light around the bend. In particular, it can be seen that the grating is actually located at a portion of the fiber that is straight. Furthermore, the grating actually acts to reflect most of the light and not to guide it around the bend. Furthermore, the radius of curvature of the bend is so large that, even if the light were being guided around the bend, there would be no bending losses and therefore the grating cannot act to reduce bending losses.

Moreover, with respect to the combination of teachings of, for example, Tseng et al. as asserted to be modified by Facq et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,307,437), it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching suggestion or incentive to provide such a modification for any of the obviousness objections. In respect of the above example, Applicant respectfully submits it would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill to make the proposed modification simple because the Bragg diffraction grating used by Tseng et al. is utilized for a different purpose, that is, not for providing a means permitting guiding light around the bend, as in the present invention. Thus, modifying Tseng et al. to extend the optical waveguide structure parallel to the propagation direction would not be a consideration, and one of ordinary skill would not be led to make such a modification.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the claims, as amended, find support in the parent application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, and in new Claims 35-48 distinguish over the references of record. Accordingly, an indication of allowable subject matter is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vangelis Economou", written over a horizontal line.

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